

Claim Amendments:

1. (Previously Presented) A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having
 - a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,
 - a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and
 - an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, andsaid at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 26° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article.
2. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said twist multiplier is less than or equal to about 310.
3. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said initial compressive modulus is greater than or equal to about 9 grams per denier.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1 wherein said at least two plies are three plies, wherein two plies have said ply orientation angle of about 30° and the third ply has a ply orientation angle of about 0°.
6. (Original) The article of claim 5 wherein said third ply has said cord at 4 to 20 ends per inch.
7. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1 comprising four plies wherein two plies have said fiber orientation angle of about [23°] 26° and two plies have a fiber orientation angle of about 45°.

8. (Original) The article of claim 7 wherein said two inner plies have said cord at 4 to 20 ends per inch.

9. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said cord is made from polyethylene naphthalate.

10. (Original) The article of claim 1 having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension.

11. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 10 wherein said third dimension of reinforcement comprises folds.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) [The article of claim 11] A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375, a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article; and having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension, wherein said third dimension of reinforcement comprises folds; and wherein said folds form the edges of the longitudinal direction of the [composite] article.

14. (Currently Amended) [The article of claim 11] A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375, a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and

said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article; and having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension; wherein said third dimension of reinforcement comprises folds; and wherein said third dimension is formed by braiding.

15. (Currently Amended) [The article of claim 1] A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375, a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article; and
wherein said article has substantially no cut cord ends along its longitudinal edges.

16. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said cord further comprises said cord having a denier per filament of greater than or equal to about 2.

17. (Original) The article of claim 1 said cord further comprises said cord having an initial tensile modulus of at least about 165 grams per denier.

18. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said article has an in-plane shear modulus of at least about 730 pounds-force per inch.

19. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said article has an in-plane shear modulus of at least about 830 pounds-force per inch.

20. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said article has a fatigue of at least about 2700 cycles to failure.

21. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said article has a fatigue of at least about 5500 cycles to failure.

22. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein said article is a tire belt.

23. (Currently Amended) A tire comprising a belt which belt comprises the article in accordance with claim 1.

24. (Currently Amended) A tire comprising a belt which belt comprises the article in accordance with claim 9.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of making a tire comprising the step of: incorporating [the] a fiber-reinforced article [of claim 1] therein, which fiber-reinforced article is comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having

a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,

a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and

an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and

said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 26° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of making [the] a fiber reinforced article [of claim 13], said fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having

a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,

a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and

an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and

said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article;

said article having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension wherein said third dimension of reinforcement comprises folds and wherein said folds form the edges of the longitudinal direction of the article; the method comprising the step of:

folding a unidirectional composite sheet [(79)] in a spiral manner to produce a composite having continuous fiber reinforcement and uncut, folded edges.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an annular object comprising the steps of: forming a fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having

a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,

a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and

an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and

said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article;

said article of claim 1 having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension wherein said third dimension of reinforcement comprises folds and wherein said folds form the edges of the longitudinal direction of the article;

folding the article [of claim 13] into a ring shape,

overlapping the ends [(107 and 109)] of said article,

causing one of said ends to have a notch [(111)] and the second of said ends to have a reciprocal flap [(113)], and

folding said flap into said notch,

wherein said annular object has no cut cord ends along its circumferential edges.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable, non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having

a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,

a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and
an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and
said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to
about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article;
the article further having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension, wherein said third
dimension of reinforcement comprises stitches or folds, and wherein when folds are
present, said folds form the edges of the longitudinal direction of the composite.

30. (Previously Presented) A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies
wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable,
non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having
a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,
a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and
an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and
said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to
about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article;
the article further having fiber reinforcement in a third dimension, wherein said third
dimension of reinforcement comprises braiding.

31. (Previously Presented) A fiber-reinforced article comprised of at least two plies
wherein each of said plies comprises (a) rubber and (b) cord made from melt-spinnable,
non-metallic, multifilament fiber, said cord having
a twist multiplier of less than or equal to about 375,
a stress at 1% strain greater than or equal to about 1.7 grams/denier, and
an initial compressive modulus greater than or equal to about 7 grams/denier, and
said at least two plies having a ply orientation angle of greater than or equal to about 23°
with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article, and wherein said article has
substantially no cut cord ends along its longitudinal edges.